Northwest Territories

Take a Kid Trapping Program Report

2005-2007

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As Minister Responsible for Youth, I am pleased to present the Northwest Territories Take a Kid Trapping Program 2005-2007 Report.

Funding for trapper training programs is provided by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This initiative supports the involvement of young people in activities such as hunting, trapping, and traditional skills.

Activities supported by the program have provided Northwest Territories youth with many exciting opportunities to deepen their understanding of traditional hunting, trapping and fishing methods. By learning from experienced instructors and elders from their communities, participants also gained a better appreciation and respect for the traditional life-styles of their ancestors. It is my hope that young people will continue to benefit from the program and carve out new opportunities for themselves in the future.

For more information on the Take a Kid Trapping Program, please contact the Municipal and Community Affairs office in your region.

Honourable Michael McLeod
Minister Responsible for Youth

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Since the earliest days of trade, our region's economy has been linked to our land and its wealth. Today, traditional activities such as trapping remain a valuable element in the Government's work to maintain a diversified healthy and balanced economy.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is committed to developing and supporting youth trapper training programs that provide opportunities for our youth to learn and participate in traditional life skills.

Teaching and instilling these key life skills to future generations will provide them the ability - not only to participate in the traditional economy, but also to gain an appreciation and insight into the culture, heritage and traditions of our region.

Honourable Brendan Bell
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

As Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, I am responsible for maintaining healthy and productive forests and wildlife populations, and for supporting the sustainable use of these natural resources. The vision statement for Environment and Natural Resources guides the Department in all its business:

> *"Our children will inherit a healthy environment that supports traditional lifestyles in a modern economy through the wise use and protection of our natural resources."*

Working in partnership with Municipal and Community Affairs and Industry, Tourism and Investment, we are encouraging youth to maintain traditional ties to the land, while they develop a deeper understanding of the important connections between our forests, waters and wildlife.

I believe through our shared knowledge, experience and passion for our lands and waters, we can all be true stewards of our environment and pass its riches on to our children and those who will follow.

Honourable Michael McLeod
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

Youth on the Land Program

The Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee administered the Youth on the Land Program. Participants were taught traditional fish harvesting techniques, survival skills and how to travel safely on the land. Local hunters and trappers led the project and were very pleased to pass along their knowledge to local youth.

The program featured a snowmobile trip from Tuktoyaktuk to Parsons Lake. At camp youth learned about safe wood collecting and cutting methods, ice hauling and traditional cooking skills. They also had an opportunity to fish and gain experience in other skills required to live and survive on the land.

The hands on experience provided by this program has given these young people an opportunity to more fully appreciate their traditional connection to the land.

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Inuvik

Date: March 2006

Community: Tuktoyaktuk

Participants: 4

Partners:

- Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Tetlit Gwich'in Trapper Training Program

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Inuvik

Date: February 2006

Community: Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic

Participants: 11

Partners:

- Tetlit Gwich'in Council
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

The Tetlit Gwich'in Trapper Training Program focused on enhancing the traditional skills of youth in the Inuvik region. The program was designed to provide young people with the skills required to be successful in the modern trapping industry.

Ten youth from Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson traveled by snowmobile to their training camp at Bear Creek. Guided by Environment and Natural Resources Officers, the training camp included a firearms awareness course, setting fish nets for trapping bait, survival skills and first aid training. The presence of respected elders in the camp provided youth with the opportunity to develop and understand traditional methods of trapping. This sharing of traditional knowledge proved to be a highlight for participants.

The connections and friendships made during the program will provide an opportunity for further mentorship by local elders. Through participation in this program, youth developed an understanding of what is required to live a subsistence lifestyle and can now explore future career goals in the industry.

Tetlit Gwich'in Trapper Training Program

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: Inuvik

Date: March 2007

Community: Fort MacPherson

Participants: 7

Partners:

- Tetlit Gwich'in Council
- Gwichya RRC (Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program)
- Gwich'in Education and Training Dept.
- Mackenzie Gas Project
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment

The Tetlit Gwich'in Council – Fort McPherson Trapper Training Program involved a weeklong excursion to Bear Creek in the Richardson Mountains. Bear Creek has a high moose, wolf and porcupine caribou population making it a great location to teach harvesting techniques to youth.

During the camp, a moose and wolf were shot. Smaller game was also caught using snares. The youth assisted in preparing the animals and with other camp duties, including wood gathering and chopping and ice and snow collection for water and cooking.

All of the youth enjoyed themselves and indicated that they had learned a lot about trapping, harvesting and on the land skills. They were able to share comments about this positive experience with their peers and other community members when they returned to Fort McPherson.

Rat River Training Program

The Rat River Trapper Training Program was held on the Rat River in the Richardson Mountains.

The program focused on the sharing of traditional skills by elders with youth during the fall caribou, moose and wolf harvest. Hunting skills learned during the seven-day camp included tracking, cleaning and meat preservation. Youth also increased their knowledge of fur harvesting techniques.

A highlight of the camp occurred when the resident elder explained the special relationship that exists between the traditional hunter and the various species in the region.

At the conclusion of the program, many of the youth expressed an interest in returning next season.

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Inuvik

Date: February 2006

Community: Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic

Participants: 10

Partners:

- Gwich'in Tribal Council Education Department
- Tetlit Gwich'in Council
- Gwichya Renewable Resource Council
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Sir Alexander Mackenzie School Trapper Training Program

Three grade six classes participated in school sponsored youth trapper training programs. Prior to going out on the land, trapping skills and on the land training were reviewed in the classroom.

Students then participated in three separate two day / one night trips to learn about trapping first hand. The students traveled by snowmobile and toboggan to Nunami on the Mackenzie Delta. During their time at camp, youth practiced setting snares and traps for linx, fox, mink, marten and muskrats. They also learned about diseases these animals might have, footprint identification and modern trapping methods.

After the students returned home, the camp leaders visited them in their classrooms to review certain aspects about the camp and the things they had learned. All of the students enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the program next year.

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: Inuvik

Date: January to March 2007

Community: Inuvik

Participants: 39

Partners:

- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

William McDonald School Trapper Training Program

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: North Slave

Date: September 2005 to March 2006

Community: Yellowknife

Participants: 52

Partners:

- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Fifty-two students participated in the William McDonald School Trapper Training Program. The program was divided into four segments each focusing on a specific season.

Ten students participated in the fall session. They established a trap line with marten as the target species.

The early winter program at Bliss Lake involved eight students who helped establish a trap line and also participated in various cultural programs.

The second winter group of fourteen youth learned how to maintain the Bliss Lake trap line and set snares for other species.

During the spring, twenty students participated in a beaver and muskrat trapping project.

At the conclusion of the program, all participants were honoured by fellow students at a school assembly.

William McDonald School Trapper Training Program

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: North Slave

Date: September 2006 to Mrach 2007

Community: Yellowknife

Participants: 14

Partners:

- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- William MacDonald School
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Fourteen youth from Yellowknife's William McDonald School learned on the land skills such as trapping, fish net setting and traditional bush skills. They also received instruction on dog mushing from world champion dog musher Grant Beck.

The program was divided into three components. During the first session students established a mock trap line where they learned the basic skills about trapping and conservation. The second stage of the program involved a twelve-day dog mushing trip to the north arm of Great Slave Lake where they established and maintained a trap line.

The final stage of the program was held at Quote Lake where the students learned how to set fish nets under the ice and then retrieve and prepare the fish they caught.

Cultural Winter Camps
Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School

The Chief Jimmy Bruneau Winter Camps involved Behchoko students from kindergarten to grade 12. Youth up to grade nine spent one day a month at a camp located on the Frank Channel. Students in grades ten to twelve spent four days at a camp located at Xaeli Marion Lake Village.

Activities for students in both camps included setting snares and the proper preparation of the animals that were caught. They also checked fishnets to identify the different species harvested and learned their names in the Dogrib language. The students then assisted with cleaning and cooking the fish for camp meals.

Instructors at the camp used resources like the Dene Ke'de school curriculum to teach snaring techniques and the traditional book 'Gah' written in Dogrib to identify rabbit habitat, the best harvesting techniques and how to prepare traditional clothing made with rabbit fur. The students also learned different traditional songs in Dogrib.

Students participating in the program gained valuable experience in traditional trapping, hunting and fishing techniques. They also gained a greater understanding and appreciation of how ancestors respected and survived on the land.

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: North Slave

Date: September 2005 to March 2006

Community: Behchoko

Participants: 100

Partners:

- Tłı̨chǫ Government
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: North Slave

Date: February to April 2006

Community: Behchokǫ̀

Participants: 12

Partners:

- Tłı̨chǫ Government
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

The Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School Winter Cultural Camp featured Dogrib elders who taught the students about traditional on the land activities.

The program focused on making youth more aware of the history of the Dogrib peoples through activities such as snowshoeing, setting fish nets, camping, setting snares and collecting firewood. With guidance from the elders, youth were taught important skills and became better connected to their cultural heritage.

Mezi Community School Trapper Training Program

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: North Slave

Date: January to April 2007

Community: Whati

Participants: 24

Partners:

- Municipal and Community Affairs
- Industry, Tourism and Investment

The Mezi Community School Trapper Training Program was held eight kilometres outside of Whati. It included students from kindergarten to Grade 9. The younger grades learned about trap setting and fish/meat preparation. The older students learned about survival skills, tracking animals and animal behavior. During the trip youth practiced and learned about various camping skills, such as camp upkeep, food preparation and wood chopping.

K'àlemì Dene School Take a Kid Trapping Program

The K'àlemì Dene School Take a Kid Trapping Program started with in-school learning where cultural instructors taught the students about the history of trapping and its importance to Aboriginal peoples.

The first outdoor excursions taught the students about safety practices, basic snaring and trapping techniques and how to track rabbits and ptarmigan. Students then travel to a local cabin where they set up and maintained a camp and recieved more detailed instruction about on the land travel, modern trapping standards and other trapping methods.

During the six week program, students also learned about the fur industry and traditional economy. Upon completion, many students expressed a desire to continue trapping.

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: North Slave

Date: February to March 2006

Community: N'dilo

Participants: 16

Partners:

- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

K'àlemì Dene School Take a Kid Trapping Program

The K'àlemì Dene School Take a Kid Trapping Program was held at Frank Sangris' cabin on Great Slave Lake. Youth, ages six to fifteen, participated. Local resource people were hired to run the program and to promote greater linkages between youth and adults in the community.

The program involved three separate training units taught during various trips on to Great Slave Lake. They were:

- Snaring Unit - Taught during the February 1 to 8 trip
- Trapping Unit - Taught during the February 12 to March 2 trip
- Skinning and Cultural Training - Taught during the March 5 to 8 trip

The Take a Kid Trapping Program helped boost the self-esteem and leadership skills of the participating students. They expressed pride in their heritage and an interest in continuing their involvement in the traditional economy.

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: North Slave

Date: February to March 2007

Community: N'dilo

Participants: 26

Partners:

- K'àlemì Dene School
- Municipal and Community Affairs
- Industry, Tourism and Investment

Hanging Ice River Winter Trapping and Fishing Camp

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: South Slave

Date: March 2007

Community: Fort Smith

Participants: 26

Partners:

- Fort Smith Education Council
- Ken and Mary Schaefer
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Twenty-six youth from J.B. Tyrell Elementary School in Fort Smith participated in a winter trapping and fishing camp at Hanging Ice River. The four-day event focused on providing youth with a positive cultural experience while learning about traditional trapping and fishing.

Students learned how to set and check beaver and muskrat traps, rabbit snares and fishnets. They also gained experience in preparing meat for smoking and skinning and stretching pelts. The camp also included lessons in snowshoeing, dog mushing, bush shelter construction and the preparation of traditional medicine with spruce gum.

P.W. Kaeser High School Trapper Training Program

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: South Slave

Date: February to March 2006

Community: Fort Smith

Participants: 30

Partners:

- P.W. Kaeser High School
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

The P.W. Kaiser High School – Senior High Winter Camp aimed to develop a student's mind, body and spirit through traditional and cultural learning.

While the focus of the 2006-2007 camp was the harvesting of caribou for elders by the students, they were also taught fish harvesting through the ice, trapping of fur bearing animals and other on the land skills. The camp was deemed a great success when the students harvested and prepared a total of 18 caribou for the elders.

The traditional and cultural experiences from this program also provided the students with the leadership skills necessary for them to become strong contributors to their communities.

Notana Trapper Training Camp

Six youth, aged 13 to 18, participated in the Notana Lake Trapper Training Camp.

Delivered by Land is Life Limited, the program was taught in traditional Dene fashion. An important goal of the program was to help youth recognize the importance of respect for each other and respect for the land and animals.

The main activities at the camp were trapping, net setting and pelt preparation. Community elders and Renewable Resource Officers taught the activities. Instruction was also provided on emergency wilderness survival and skills for living in an isolated camp.

Participants of the Notana Trapper Training Camp expressed a great appreciation for the skills and knowledge they acquired and for the traditional skills of their ancestors. Many expressed interest in learning more about careers in the renewable resource industry.

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Dehcho

Date: March 2006

Community: Fort Simpson

Participants: 6

Partners:

- Land is Life Ltd.
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Chief Sunrise Education Centre Take a Kid Trapping Program

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: South Slave

Date: January to March 2006

Community: Hay River Reserve

Participants: 40

Partners:

- South Slave District Education Council
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

The Chief Sunrise Education Centre incorporated the Take a Kid Trapping Program into their existing Traditional Skills curriculum.

The program included instruction on fish harvesting. Students learned how to set traditional nets, identify species and prepare the fish for consumption. During the trapping element of the program, youth learned how to set their own traps for wolves, coyotes, lynx, marten and mink.

The program highlight was a trip to Buffalo Lake to allow the students to apply their new skills. During the trip they also visited ancestral sites, documented traditional stories, hunted for moose and woodland caribou and set traps for beaver and muskrats.

Zhati Koe Friendship Centre Trapper Training Program

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: South Slave

Date: March 2007

Community: Fort Providence

Participants: 4

Partners:

- Friendship Centre
- Municipal and Community Affairs
- Industry, Tourism and Investment

The Zhati Koe Friendship Centre – Trapper Training Program was held on the Horn Plateau near Fort Providence. Youth participants learned how to set and check traps, prepare hides and live off of the land.

The youth also had the privilege of participating in a buffalo hunt with a local trapper.

Fort Providence Hunting, Trapping and Land-Based Program

Students from the Deh Gah School in Fort Providence participated in a traditional skills program that included a fall moose hunt, a trapping program and a river canoe trip.

Students worked in groups of five with two trained leaders. They learned how to set nets, travel by snowmobile, skin animals and cut meat. In the summer they learned how to travel by canoe, set beaver traps and hunt duck. A small group of students also traveled to Wrigley by canoe.

The program included an 'alternative experiential component' which allowed some of the students to receive more intensive training and go on longer trips on the land and down the river.

Meat acquired during the program was shared with community elders to help youth build a stronger bond with them and foster a feeling of community involvement.

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: South Slave

Date: September 2005 to March 2006

Community: Fort Providence

Participants: 88

Partners:

- Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School
- Zhati Kóé Friendship Centre
- Dehcho Divisional Board of Education
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Deh Gah Elementary School and Bompas Elementary School Trapper Training Program

Grade six students from the Deh Gah Elementary School in Fort Providence and the Bompas Elementary School in Fort Simpson participated in a collaborative cultural based program based on the Dene Kede curriculum.

The program included hunting, trapping and bush safety skills and the traditional preparation of meat and other foods. Elders involved in the program also shared their knowledge and experience with the students.

The collaborative programming between the two schools and the involvement of elders from both communities made the program a great success.

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: South Slave

Date: September 2006

Community: Fort Providence and Fort Simpson

Participants: 25

Partners:

- Deh Gah Elementary School
- Municipal and Community Affairs
- Industry, Tourism and Investment

Aboriginal Traditional Studies Program

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Sahtu

Date: March 2006

Community: Déline

Participants: 21

Partners:

- Enbridge Pipeline
- Déline Construction
- Déline Land Corporation
- Sahtu Divisional Education Council
- Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

The Aboriginal Traditional Studies Program in Deline provided an opportunity for youth from the community to participate in a week long on the land cultural trip.

During the excursions, students were taught important skills like snowmobile maintenance, chain saw safety and survival skills. They also learned how to trap wolverine, marten and fox and how to prepare these animals for a taxidermist.

The Aboriginal Traditional Studies Program also provided students an opportunity to earn high school credits in first aid training and firearms safety and to learn more about career opportunities in the traditional economy.

Deline School Trapper Training Program

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Sahtu

Date: January 2007

Community: Deline

Participants: 11

Partners:

- Sahtu Renewable Resources Council
- Sahtu Divisional Education Council
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Students were taken to the Willow Lake Deline District Camp, where they undertook a one day excursion to check and maintain the trapline. Eleven students participated in four trips and set 125 quick-kill traps. They harvested 30 marten and one wolverine. One student harvested a moose and all were shown the proper procedure for skinning and preparing the meat.

Take a Kid Trapping Program

Colville Lake students participated in numerous out of town expeditions as part of the Take a Kid Trapping Program. Local hunters and trappers taught the youth how to travel on the land, set traps, retrieve harvests and handle pelts.

The program also gave the students the opportunity to learn about the cultural significance of the harvest and the traditional skills used by local hunters. The hunters and trappers also shared stories about their experiences on the land. Through these exchanges youth developed a respect for the sharing of traditional knowledge and their elders

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Sahtu

Date: March 2006

Community: Colville Lake

Participants: 20

Partners:

- Sahtu Divisional Education Council
- Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Fort Good Hope School Trapper Training Program

The program began mid May with the setting of quick-kill traps, targeting muskrats. The overnight excursions included a number of bush related orienteering skills, such as camp construction, maintenance and camp safety. A major component of this Trapper Training program was the classroom work. The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board believes that it is financially smarter and safer to teach some skills while in the classroom. All high school students observed the proper techniques of skinning an animal.

ProgramStats: 2006-2007

Region: Sahtu

Date: 2007

Community: Déline

Participants: 15

Partners:

- Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- Sahtu Divisional Education Council
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Chief T'Selehye School Youth on the Land Program

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Sahtu

Date: February 2006

Community: Fort Good Hope

Participants: 5

Partners:

- Sahtu Divisional Education Council
- Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

The Fort Good Hope Youth on the Land Program was taught by former Chief and respected elder Charlie Barnaby. His knowledge of traditional practices and skills on the land provided youth with an excellent opportunity to learn about their culture and the traditional economy.

The focus of the program was an eleven-day, 350-kilometer trip on the land. Students received instruction on quick-kill traps and the new trapping regulations. They also harvested eight marten, two caribou and one moose. The youth also used nets to catch fish and snares to catch rabbits.

The program was a positive experience for all of the participants.

Chief Albert Wright School
Traditional Wildlife Economy Program

The Chief Alberta Wright School – Traditional Wildlife Economy Program provided students with an opportunity to learn about traditional trapping and hunting and the impact these activities have on the economy.

During the first segment of the project, Wilfred Lennie, President of the Tulita Renewable Resources Council and two instructors guided five youth on a three-day moose hunt. The students learned traditional hunting skills and respect for the animals and the land. The group returned to Tulita with three moose that were shared with all residents at a community feast.

The second part of the program focused on beaver and muskrat trapping. Eight students spent five days on the land. They learned about new trapping techniques and how to prepare the pelts for market. They also received instruction in the cultural significance of trapping and how the industry is changing.

ProgramStats: 2005-2006

Region: Sahtu

Date: May 2006

Community: Tulita

Participants: 15

Partners:

- Tulita Renewable Resources Council
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Municipal and Community Affairs

Contact Information

Environment and Natural Resources Contacts:

For more information, please contact the Environment and Natural Resources office in your region.

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Lutselk'e Office Fax (867) 370-3008

Fort Smith Office Phone (867) 872-6400
Fort Smith Office Fax (867) 872-4250

Inuvik
Phone (867) 777-7295 or (867) 777-7311
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North Slave
Yellowknife Office Phone (867) 873-7184
Yellowknife Office Fax (867) 873-6230

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Behchoko Office Fax (867) 392-6339

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